

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NAS-01 OES-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08
DOE-15 SOE-02 NSF-01 HA-05 /119 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MJWILKINSON:AKRAUSE:EM
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
NAS:LMITCHELL
S/MS:CKAMMAN
OES/APT/SEP:DCRAMER (INFO)

-----012057 142131Z /70

R 140300Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF THE US-USSR INTERACADEMY AGREEMENT

REF: MOSCOW 6952

1. DEPARTMENT AND NAS APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REPORT (REFTEL)
ON SOVIET SCIENTIST ATTITUDES TOWARD CONTINUATION OF INTER-
ACADEMY AGREEMENT.

2. EMBASSY IS CORRECT (REFTEL, PARA 2) THAT NAS HAS NOT
EXPLICITLY THREATENED TO TERMINATE OR CONTRACT INTER-
ACADEMY AGREEMENT ACTIVITIES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF SOVIET
TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. AS YOU KNOW, HOWEVER,
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NAS HAS EXPRESSED ITS VERY SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUES TO OFFICIAL SOVIET COUNTERPARTS ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS. FEELINGS ON THIS MATTER RUN HIGH IN THE US
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE USSR
MAY GENERATE EVEN STRONGER PRESSURES HERE.

3. AT THIS POINT NAS IS NOT PREPARED TO BEGIN RENEWAL

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. A PRINCIPAL FACTOR IS THE
HANGING SWORD OF SHCHARANSKY, GINZBERG AND ORLOV TRIALS--
AND IN THIS CONNECTION, SOVIET FAILURES TO ANSWER CORRES-

PONDENCE ON THE SUBJECT FROM NAS PRESIDENT HANDLER
(COPIES POUCHED APRIL 10). ANOTHER ELEMENT IS THE
PRACTICAL ONE OF LINING UP FUNDING FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE
PROGRAM EXPANSION IF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION DOES
NOT PROVE AN OBSTRUCTION.

4. THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED THEY WISH TO EXPAND THE
PROGRAM, BUT NAS HAS GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT--AT LEAST FOR
1978. FOR THE LONGER TERM, THE SOVIETS ARE AWARE OF
KAYSER PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND JOINT RESEARCH AND
SEMINARS WHILE MAINTAINING INDIVIDUAL EXCHANGES AT ABOUT
THE PRESENT LEVEL. FYI, NAS CURRENTLY IS DISCUSSING WITH
THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AN ADDITIONAL 20 MONTHS
OF ACTIVITY IN 1979 DEVOTED TO JOINT SYMPOSIA.

5. QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND
SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES IS UP FOR CONSIDERATION AT NAS
COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 23. WHATEVER POLICY STATEMENT
COMES OUT OF THAT MEETING MAY BE DISCUSSED BY MEMBERSHIP
AT LARGE IN ANNUAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD, APRIL
24-26. WE WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS
HERE.

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CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE096027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MJWILKINSON:AKRAUSE:EM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-0595
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780454/aaaabtsy.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ad9401b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 6952
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2960935
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RENEWAL OF THE US-USSR INTERACADEMY AGREEMENT
TAGS: TGEN, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad9401b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014